

# HOOSIER WOMEN AT WORK

## STUDIES IN INDIANA WOMEN'S HISTORY

Session 1

April 2018

### A Woman's Work is Never Done: How Matriarchs, Midwives and Mothers Maintain Households and Economies in Rural Indiana

**LILLIAN CRONIN, CAITLIN MAHONEY, ALISON TIPTON, AND JAMIE WAGMAN\***

Saint Mary's College seniors propose to present their scholarly original-research on rural women's work. Their training in oral history and close readings of archival documents assist them in examining local histories and stories. Senior Caitlin Mahoney will present a research paper on her oral history project with rural Indiana women, reviewing the ways in which rural women access prenatal care and experience birth. She also interrogates how extended family members assist mothers through birth in supporting roles. Senior Lillian Cronin draws on archival research to examine women's independence and leadership in agriculture in rural Indiana in the 1970's, long before they received accreditation from the national government. Senior Alison Tipton will present her research on family archival photographs, documents, and interviews to illustrate rural women's roles during the Great Depression in Indiana. Together their work illustrates the challenges and hardships that women overcame throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond in rural Indiana communities. Jamie Wagman, Assistant Professor of History at Saint Mary's College, will chair the panel.

\* Lillian Cronin is a Political Science and History major at Saint Mary's College. Caitlin Mahoney is a Gender and Women's Studies major and a Biology minor at Saint Mary's College. Alison Tipton is a History and Philosophy major and an Intercultural Studies minor at Saint Mary's College. Jamie Wagman is an Assistant Professor of U.S. History and Gender & Women's Studies at Saint Mary's College.